

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1           1.     (Currently amended) A computer implemented server method for  
2     dynamically managing a user software license, the method comprising:  
3                 receiving a plurality of requests from a client to access at least one feature  
4                 of a software program, each request including identification  
5                 information concerning the user, and license verification  
6                 information concerning the user, wherein the license verification  
7                 information comprises a hardware configuration identifier  
8                 concerning a computer associated with the user, and wherein the  
9                 hardware configuration identifier comprises identifiers for a  
10                plurality of hardware devices within the computer;  
11                responsive to receiving ~~each~~ request, retrieving stored software license  
12                information concerning the user, the stored software license  
13                information corresponding to the received identification  
14                information;  
15                determining current software license information concerning the user; and  
16                returning current software license information concerning the user to the  
17                client.

1           2.     (Original) The server method of claim 1 wherein:

2 determining current software license information concerning the user  
3 comprises determining that the user is not licensed to run the  
4 software program; and  
5 returning current software license information concerning the user to the  
6 client comprises returning software license information indicating  
7 that the user is not licensed to run the software program.

1 3. (Original) The server method of claim 1 wherein:  
2 determining current software license information concerning the user  
3 comprises determining that the user is licensed to run the software  
4 program; and  
5 returning current software license information concerning the user to the  
6 client comprises returning software license information indicating  
7 that the user is licensed to run the software program.

1 4. (Original) The server method of claim 1 wherein:  
2 determining current software license information concerning the user  
3 comprises determining that it is appropriate to modify software  
4 license information concerning the user; and  
5 returning current software license information concerning the user to the  
6 client comprises returning modified license information concerning  
7 the user to the client, the method further comprising:  
8 responsive to the determination, modifying the retrieved license  
9 information concerning the user; and  
10 responsive to the determination, storing the modified license  
11 information concerning the user.

1 5. (Original) The server method of claim 4 wherein modifying the license  
2 information concerning the user comprises performing one step from a group of steps  
3 comprising:  
4 activating the user software license;

5           deactivating the user software license;  
6           extending the user software license;  
7           restricting the user software license;  
8           upgrading the user software license; and  
9           downgrading the user software license.

1           6.       (Original) The server method of claim 4 wherein:  
2           determining that it is appropriate to modify software license information  
3                       concerning the user comprises determining that the user is not  
4                       licensed to run the software program; and  
5           modifying the license information concerning the user comprises  
6                       deactivating the user software license responsive to the  
7                       determination.

1           7.       (Original) The server method of claim 1 wherein:  
2           determining current software license information concerning the user  
3                       comprises determining that the user is not licensed to access a  
4                       requested feature of the software program; and  
5           responsive to the determination performing one step from a group of steps  
6                       comprising:  
7                       not providing the requested feature of the software program to the  
8                       client; and  
9                       returning current software license information to the client  
10                      indicating that the user is not licensed to access the  
11                      requested feature.

1           8.       (Original) The server method of claim 1 wherein:  
2           determining current software license information concerning the user  
3                       comprises determining that the user is licensed to access a  
4                       requested feature of the software program; and

responsive to the determination, performing one step from a group of steps comprising:  
providing the requested feature of the software program to the client; and  
returning current software license information to the client indicating that the user is licensed to access the requested feature.

9. (Currently amended) The server method of claim 1 wherein:

~~the received license verification information concerning the user comprises a hardware configuration identifier concerning a computer associated with the user;~~  
the stored license information concerning the user includes a stored hardware configuration identifier concerning the computer associated with the user; and  
determining current software license information concerning the user comprises comparing the received hardware configuration identifier to the stored hardware configuration identifier, to determine whether a difference between the received hardware configuration identifier is acceptably similar to and the stored hardware configuration identifier is below a predetermined threshold.

10. (Currently amended) The server method of claim 9 further comprising:

responsive to the difference between the received hardware configuration identifier being acceptably similar to and the stored hardware configuration identifier being below the predetermined threshold, returning the stored software license information concerning the user including the stored hardware configuration identifier to the client.

1 11. (Currently amended) The server method of claim 9 further comprising:  
2 performing the following steps responsive to the difference between the  
3 received hardware configuration identifier ~~not being acceptably~~  
4 ~~similar to~~ and the stored hardware configuration identifier being  
5 above the predetermined threshold:  
6 determining that the user is not licensed to run the software  
7 program; and  
8 updating the stored software license information concerning the  
9 user to indicate that the user is not licensed to run the  
10 software program; and wherein  
11 returning current software license information concerning  
12 the user to the client comprises returning software  
13 license information indicating that the user is not  
14 licensed to run the software program

1 12-19 (Canceled)

1 20. (Currently amended) A computer program product for dynamically  
2 managing a user software license, the computer program product comprising:  
3 program code for receiving a plurality of requests from a client to access at  
4 least one feature of a software program, each request including  
5 identification information concerning the user, ~~and~~ license  
6 verification information concerning the user, and a hardware  
7 configuration identifier concerning a computer associated with the  
8 user, wherein the hardware configuration identifier comprises  
9 identifiers for a plurality of hardware devices within the computer;  
10 program code for, responsive to receiving ~~a each~~ request, retrieving stored  
11 software license information concerning the user, the stored  
12 software license information corresponding to the received  
13 identification information;

14                   program code for determining current software license information  
15                   concerning the user;  
16                   program code for returning current software license information  
17                   concerning the user to the client; and  
18                   a computer readable medium on which the program codes are stored.

1           21.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising:  
2                   program code for determining that the user is not licensed to run the  
3                   software program; and  
4                   program code for returning software license information indicating that the  
5                   user is not licensed to run the software program.

1           22.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising:  
2                   program code for determining that the user is licensed to run the software  
3                   program; and  
4                   program code for returning software license information indicating that the  
5                   user is licensed to run the software program.

1           23.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising:  
2                   program code for determining that it is appropriate to modify software  
3                   license information concerning the user; and  
4                   program code for returning modified license information concerning the  
5                   user to the client;  
6                   program code for, responsive to the determination, modifying the retrieved  
7                   license information concerning the user; and  
8                   program code for, responsive to the determination, storing the modified  
9                   license information concerning the user.

1           24.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the  
2                   program code for modifying the license information concerning the user comprises a  
3                   program code from a group of program codes comprising:

program code for activating the user software license;  
program code for deactivating the user software license;  
program code for extending the user software license;  
program code for restricting the user software license;  
program code for upgrading the user software license; and  
program code for downgrading the user software license.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 further comprising:  
program code for determining that the user is not licensed to run the  
software program; and  
program code for deactivating the user software license responsive to the  
determination.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A computer system for dynamically managing a user  
software license, the computer system comprising a storage-medium including:  
a software portion for receiving a plurality of requests from a client to  
access at least one feature of a software program, each request  
including identification information concerning the user, ~~and~~  
license verification information concerning the user, and a  
hardware configuration identifier concerning a computer associated  
with the user, wherein the hardware configuration identifier  
comprises identifiers for a plurality of hardware devices within the  
computer;  
a software portion for, responsive to receiving ~~a each~~ request, retrieving  
stored software license information concerning the user, the stored  
software license information corresponding to the received  
identification information;  
a software portion for determining current software license information  
concerning the user; and

17 a software portion for returning current software license information  
18 concerning the user to the client.

1 28. (Original) The computer system of claim 27 further comprising:  
2 a software portion for determining that the user is not licensed to run the  
3 software program; and  
4 a software portion for returning software license information indicating  
5 that the user is not licensed to run the software program.

1 29. (Original) The computer system of claim 27 further comprising:  
2 a software portion for determining that the user is licensed to run the  
3 software program; and  
4 a software portion for returning software license information indicating  
5 that the user is licensed to run the software program.

1 30. (Original) The computer system of claim 27 further comprising:  
2 a software portion for determining that it is appropriate to modify software  
3 license information concerning the user; and  
4 a software portion for returning modified license information concerning  
5 the user to the client;  
6 a software portion for, responsive to the determination, modifying the  
7 retrieved license information concerning the user; and  
8 a software portion for, responsive to the determination, storing the  
9 modified license information concerning the user.

1 31. (Original) The computer system of claim 30 wherein the software portion  
2 for modifying the license information concerning the user comprises a software portion  
3 from a group of software portions comprising:  
4 software portion for activating the user software license;  
5 software portion for deactivating the user software license;  
6 software portion for extending the user software license;



7 software portion for restricting the user software license;  
8 a software portion for upgrading the user software license; and  
9 a software portion for downgrading the user software license.

1 32. (Original) The computer system of claim 30 further comprising:  
2 a software portion for determining that the user is not licensed to run the  
3 software program; and  
4 a software portion for deactivating the user software license responsive to  
5 the determination.

1 33. (Currently amended) A computer system for dynamically managing a user  
2 software license, the computer system comprising:  
3 a software portion for sending a plurality of requests to a server to access  
4 at least one feature of a software program, each request including  
5 identification information concerning the user, ~~and~~ license  
6 verification information concerning the user, and a hardware  
7 configuration identifier concerning a computer associated with the  
8 user, wherein the hardware configuration identifier comprises  
9 identifiers for a plurality of hardware devices within the computer;  
10 a software portion for receiving current software license information  
11 concerning the user from the server; and  
12 a software portion for storing received current software license  
13 information concerning the user.

1 34. (Currently amended) A computer system for dynamically managing a user  
2 software license, the computer system comprising:  
3 means for receiving a plurality of requests from a client to access at least  
4 one feature of a software program, each request including  
5 identification information concerning the user, ~~and~~ license  
6 verification information concerning the user, and a hardware  
7 configuration identifier concerning a computer associated with the

user, wherein the hardware configuration identifier comprises  
identifiers for a plurality of hardware devices within the computer;

means for, responsive to receiving a each request, retrieving stored  
software license information concerning the user, the stored  
software license information corresponding to the received  
identification information;  
means for determining current software license information concerning the  
user; and  
means for returning current software license information concerning the  
user to the client.

35-37 (Canceled)